



Increasing Opportunities for High School Students to Earn Postsecondary Credits

Office of Postsecondary Coordination and Alignment

Session Overview

- ❑ **Office of Postsecondary Coordination and Alignment**

- ❑ **Early Postsecondary Opportunities in Tennessee**

 - ❖ Discussion 1

- ❑ **Tennessee EPSO Landscape: A Look at AP Participation**

 - ❖ Discussion 2

- ❑ **Goals and Actions**



Office of Postsecondary Coordination and Alignment

OPCA Background

- The Department of Education established the Office of Postsecondary Coordination and Alignment (OPCA), which is charged with expanding and promoting early postsecondary credit opportunities for high school students
- In 2012, The General Assembly amended T.C.A. § 49-15 to create the Consortium for Cooperative Innovative Education under Public Chapter 967.
- OPCA is responsible for collaborating with secondary, postsecondary, and industry partners to implement the vision, policies, and recommendations established by the Consortium for Cooperative Innovative Education.

Mission

To provide Tennessee high school students access to early postsecondary opportunities and to educate students and families about choosing and completing relevant career pathways

OPCA Beliefs and Priorities

- **Access:** All students should have the opportunity to earn postsecondary credits while in high school.
- **Quality:** Early postsecondary offerings must be relevant and rigorous.
- **Mastery:** Secondary students can successfully participate in and complete postsecondary level curricula and those who do should be allowed to demonstrate mastery for college credit.
- **Collaboration:** Successful transitions from secondary to postsecondary require collaboration between multiple agencies.
- **Communication:** School/district administrators, students and parents must have access to comprehensive accurate information about EPSOs.

Why is Postsecondary Attainment Important for All Students?

- Within six years, nearly two out of every three U.S. jobs will require some postsecondary education and training.
- Nearly 50% of all current jobs are available to "middle-skilled" workers (those with postsecondary education/training less than a bachelor's degree).
- By 2018, the fastest growth will be in jobs requiring associates degrees.



Early Postsecondary Opportunities in Tennessee

EPSOs Allow Students to:

- Earn postsecondary credits in high school
- Become familiar with postsecondary learning expectations and requirements
- Develop confidence and study skills necessary for success in postsecondary coursework
- Make more informed decisions about postsecondary plans and career goals
- Decrease the time and cost of completing a certificate or degree

EPSOs Available in Tennessee

- ☐ Local Dual Credit
- ☐ Statewide Dual Credit
- ☐ Dual Enrollment
- ☐ Advanced Placement (AP)
- ☐ International Baccalaureate (IB)
- ☐ College level Examination Program (CLEP)

Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment

- **Local Dual Credit:** Secondary course aligned to a postsecondary course and taught at the high school by high school faculty for high school credit. Students are able to receive postsecondary credit by successfully completing the course and passing an assessment developed and/or recognized by the granting postsecondary institution.
- **Statewide Dual Credit:** Secondary course with accompanying challenge exam created by Tennessee secondary and postsecondary faculty. Students who meet or exceed the established cut score set for the exam earn credits that can be applied to any public postsecondary institution in Tennessee.
- **Dual Enrollment:** Postsecondary course, taught either at the postsecondary institution or at the high school, by postsecondary faculty or credentialed adjunct faculty. Upon successful completion of the course, students earn postsecondary and secondary credit simultaneously.

AP/IB/CLEP

➤ **Advanced Placement (AP)**

- College-level classes in multiple subjects offered by the College Board.
- High school students can earn college credit by passing the AP exam associated with the specific course.

➤ **International Baccalaureate (IB)**

- Academically challenging education program with accompanying exams that enable students to earn college credit.

➤ **College level Examination Program (CLEP)**

- Exams that test mastery of college-level material acquired through various means, including general academic instruction, independent study, or extracurricular work.

Enhancing EPSOs in Tennessee

➤ **Dual Enrollment**

- Creating uniform standards
- Expanding use of dual enrollment grant
- Tracking participation

➤ **TN Colleges of Applied Technology (TCATs)**

- Identifying secondary CTE programs of study that can be linked with TCAT instruction to better serve students and create opportunities for high school students to earn postsecondary credit.

➤ **Learning Support (SAILS)**

- Allowing high school students to complete college-level remedial math so they are eligible for credit-bearing coursework when they enter postsecondary

Statewide Dual Credit Pilot

Overview

- Secondary and postsecondary faculty worked together to create the statewide dual credit course learning objectives and challenge exams
- Students who meet or exceed the established cut score earn credits that can be applied to any public postsecondary institution in TN

2013-14

- 3 courses offered: College Algebra, Greenhouse Management, and Agriculture Business Finance
- Over 3,000 students at 102 schools

2014-15

- 2 new courses: Sociology and Criminal Justice
- Districts and schools will be invited to participate; MOUs due April 25

AP Exam Fee Pilot

- **Legislation passed in 2013 establishing a two-year pilot program to pay for AP exam fees in an effort to increase the number of students in AP courses who participate in the AP exam.**
 - The pilot will be evaluated to determine whether it encouraged students to enroll in AP courses and successfully pass the exams.
- **The pilot covers exam fees for all students enrolled in an AP math course:**
 - AP Calculus AB; AP Calculus BC; AP Statistics
- **There are currently 21 high schools across 13 districts participating in the 2013-15 exam fee pilot.**
 - TDOE's research on AP participation and exam pass rates was used to determine the criteria for pilot site selection.

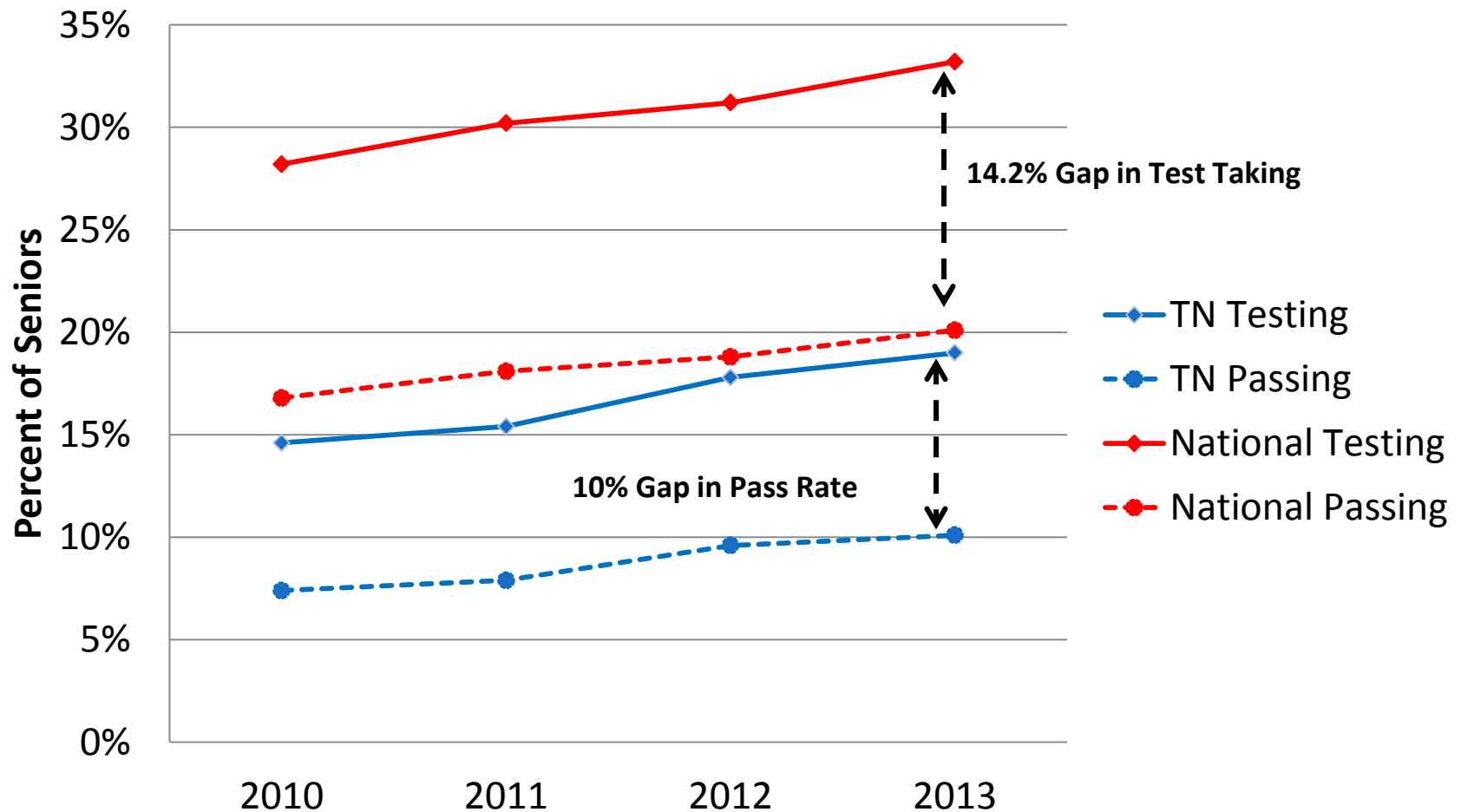
Discussion 1

- 1) What EPSOs are available to students in your school or district?**
- 2) How are students and parents informed about EPSOs?**
- 3) How are students placed in EPSOs?**
- 4) What are potential barriers to student participation in EPSOs?**

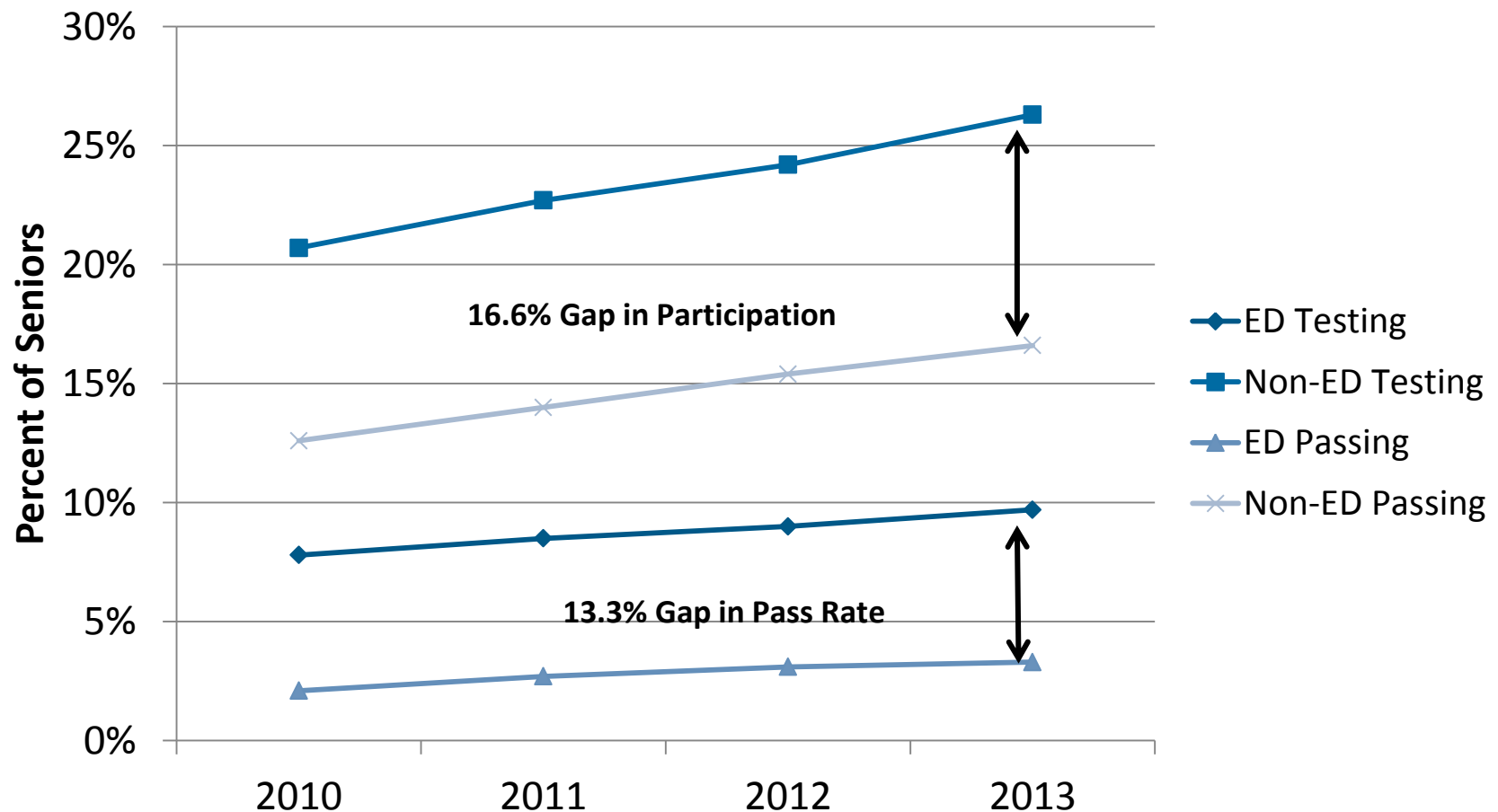


Tennessee EPSO Landscape: A Look at AP Participation

The percentage of TN students taking and passing AP exams has increased, but continues to lag behind the national average



Economically disadvantaged students in TN are taking and passing AP exams at lower rates than their non-ED peers



Research shows that schools in TN face multiple challenges that require different intervention strategies

The following types of high school have been identified:

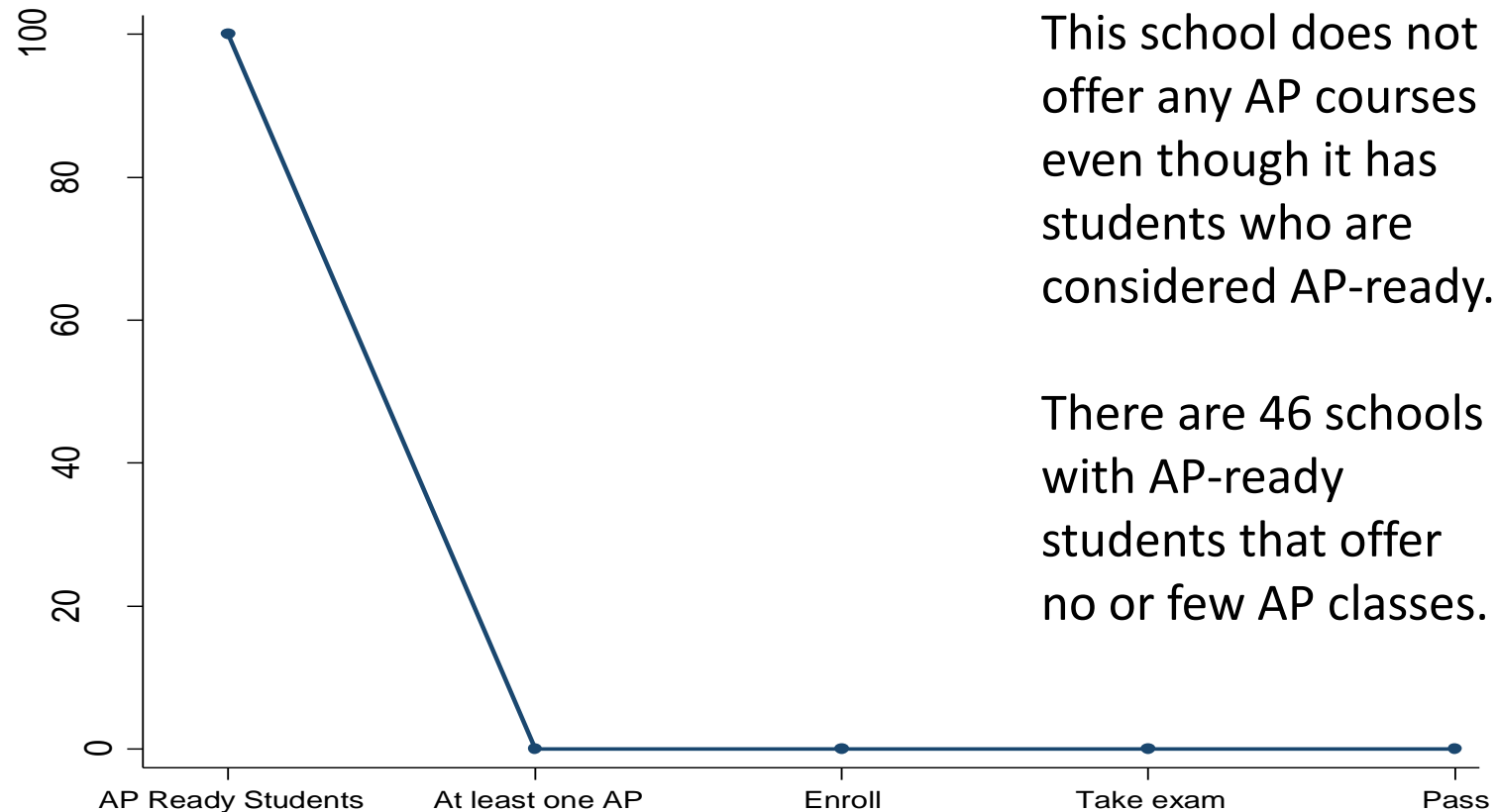
- **Low Preparation:** Less than 9 AP-ready students in the senior class
- **Low access:** AP-ready students have little to no access to AP classes
- **Low Enrollment:** AP-ready students do not enroll in AP classes
- **Differential enrollment:** AP-ready enrollment rates differ by ED status
- **Low test-taking:** AP-ready students take classes but not AP tests
- **Differential test-taking:** AP-ready test-taking rates differ by ED status

AP Pipeline Graphs

- Each of the following graphs shows the AP pipeline for an actual Tennessee high school
- The graphs were selected to provide examples of five major pipeline issues that can be found in schools across the state

Low Access

Little to no opportunities for students to enroll in AP coursework



Preparation

Enrollment

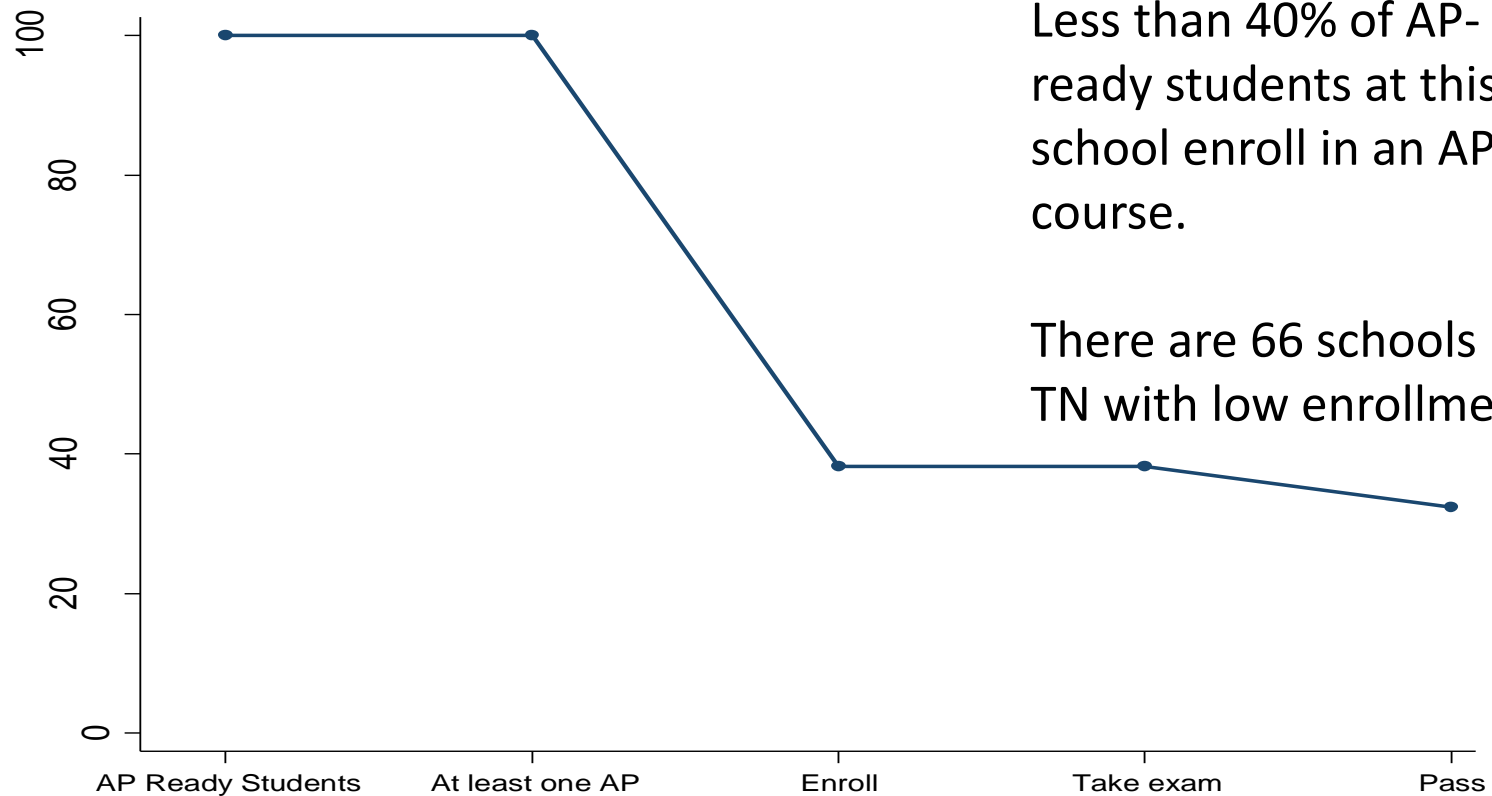
Testing

Passing

Success

Low Enrollment

AP-ready students enroll in AP courses at low rates



Preparation

Enrollment

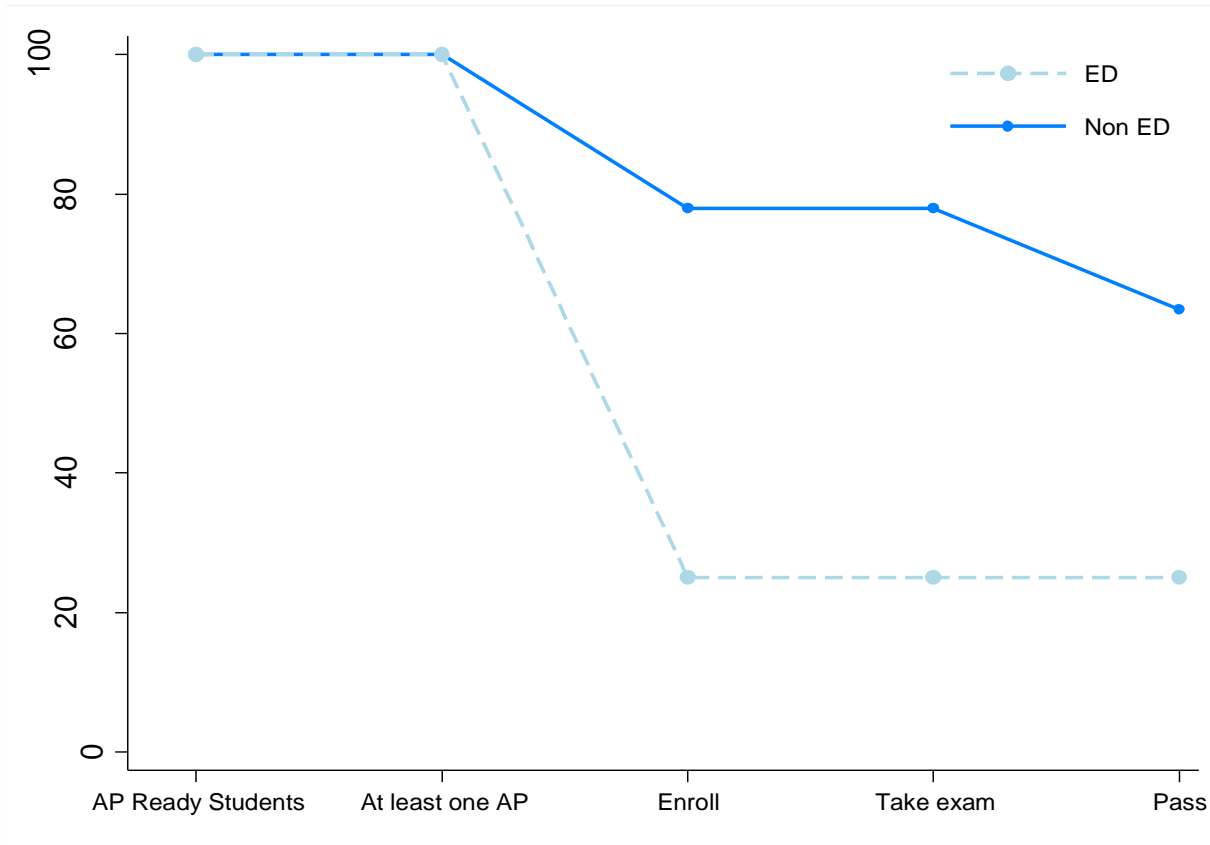
Testing

Passing

Success

Differential Enrollment

AP-ready students enroll in AP courses at different rates, depending on ED status



Less than 30% of AP-ready ED students at this school enroll in AP courses.

There are 66 schools in TN with a similar issue.

Preparation

Enrollment

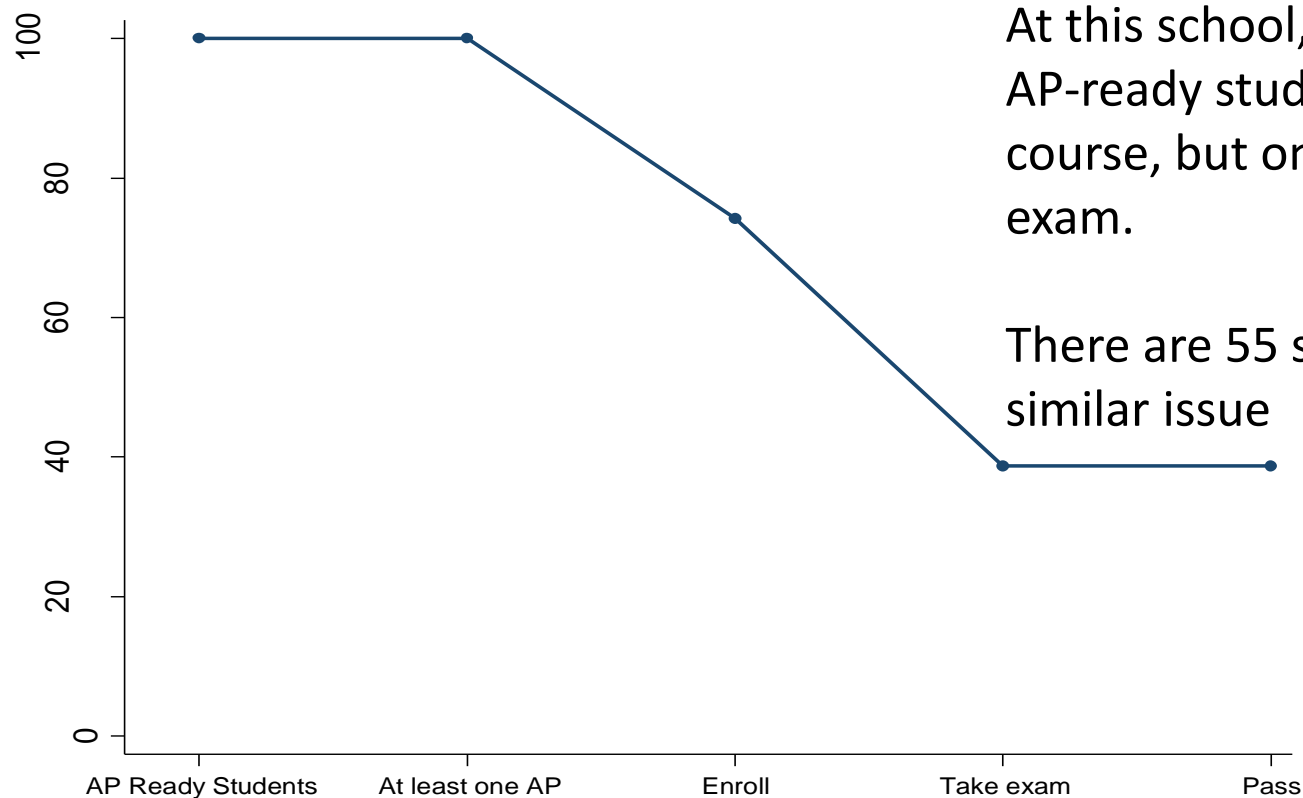
Testing

Passing

Success

Low Test-Taking

AP-ready students enroll in AP courses but do not take exams



At this school, close to 80% of AP-ready students enrolled in a course, but only 40% took the exam.

There are 55 schools in TN with a similar issue

Preparation

Enrollment

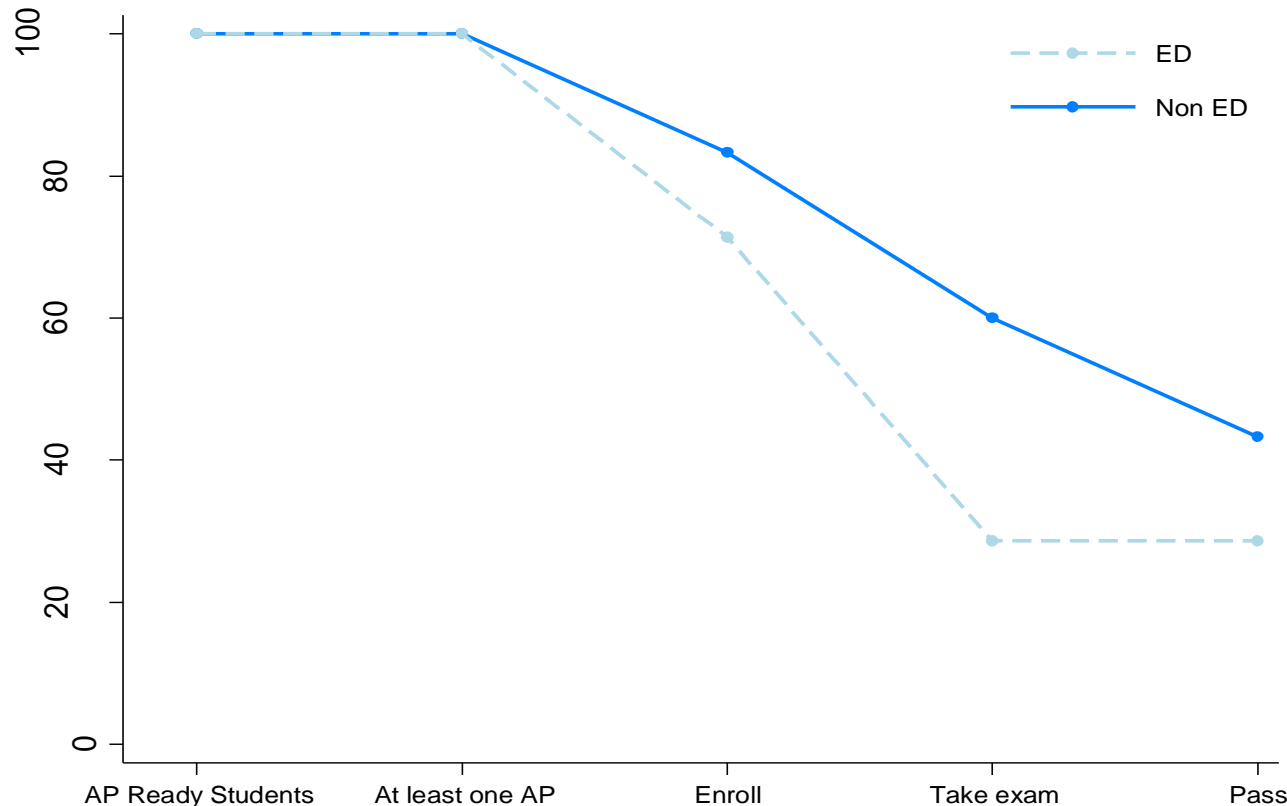
Testing

Passing

Success

Differential Test-Taking

AP-ready ED and non-ED students test at different rates



Of the AP-ready students at this school, about 30% of ED students took the AP exam, while over 60% of their non-ED peers tested.

There are 30 schools in TN with a similar issue.

Preparation

Enrollment

Testing

Passing

Success

Discussion 2

- 1) What steps can you take to help more students enroll in EPSOs?**
- 2) What steps can you take to help more students be successful in EPSOs?**
- 3) Looking back at the barriers you identified, are there additional challenges students in your school or district face in participating and/or succeeding in EPSOs?**
- 4) What are potential solutions to these challenges?**



Goals and Actions

GOAL: All Students Have Access to Rigorous Early Postsecondary Opportunities

STATE ACTION:

- ☐ Expand statewide EPSOs, including dual credit and AP
- ☐ Share best practices
- ☐ Ensure teachers have access to high quality professional development

LOCAL ACTION NEEDED:

- ☐ Help identify and eliminate barriers to EPSOs
- ☐ Pursue partnerships between secondary and postsecondary systems
- ☐ Provide teachers access to training opportunities

GOAL: Students, Families, and Teachers Understand How High Quality EPSOs Prepare Students for Postsecondary Success

STATE ACTION:

- ☐ Ensure communication with schools and districts is clear and frequent
- ☐ Provide resources to schools and districts
- ☐ Encourage use of data in student placements
- ☐ Communicate with postsecondary institutions

LOCAL ACTION NEEDED:

- ☐ Ensure students and families are aware of different EPSO options
- ☐ Ensure students, families, and teachers understand the value of EPSOs
- ☐ Provide resources to counselors and secondary teachers
- ☐ Ensure student placement is based on accurate data

Contact Information

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